

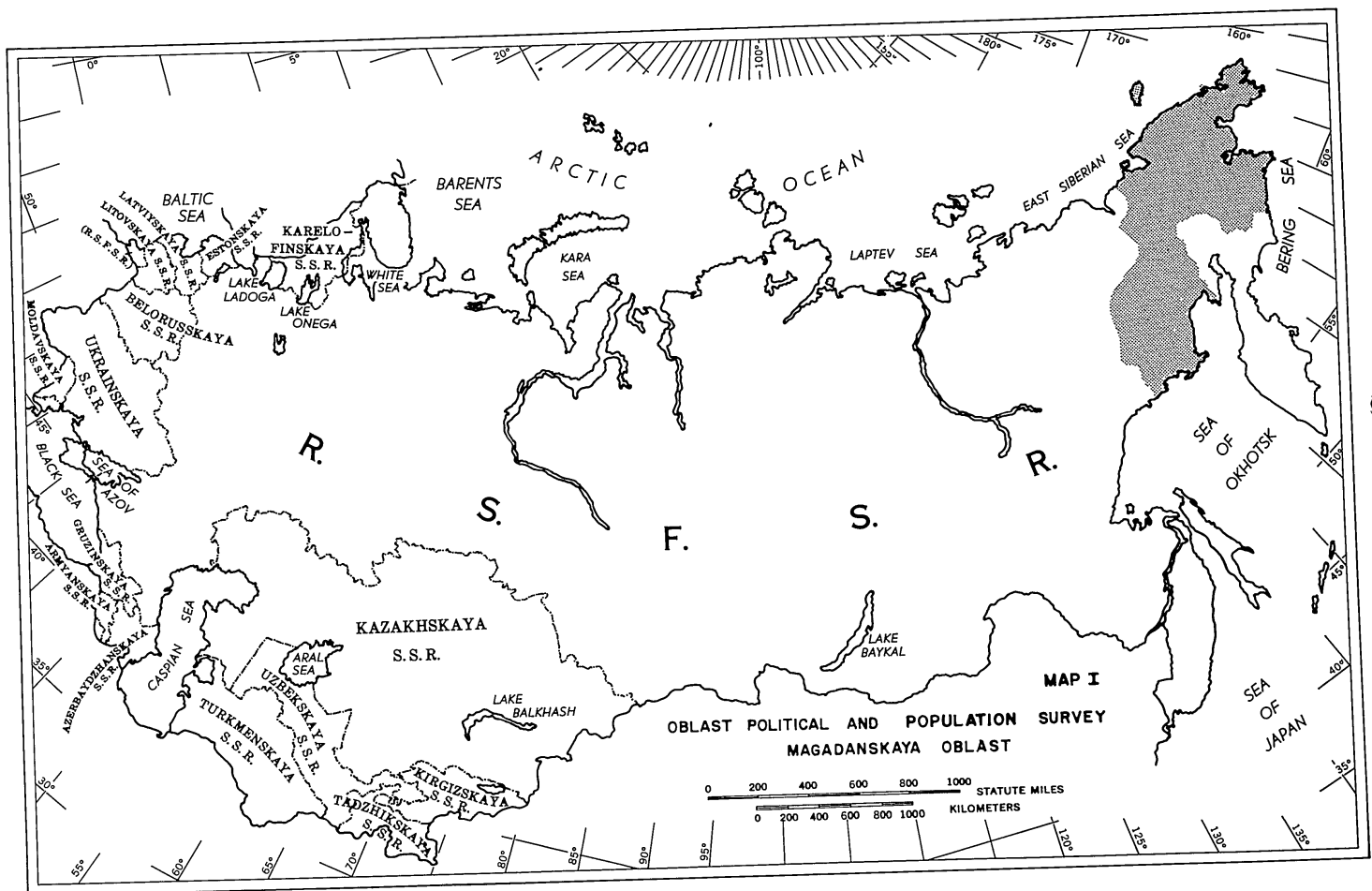
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SECRET
OBLAST POLITICAL
AND
POPULATION SURVEY NO. 3
MAGADANSKAYA OBLAST

1 AUG 1955

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URBAN AREAS

Oblast Political and Population Survey

No. 3

Magadanakaya Oblast

Prepared by

**Air Research Division
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1 August 1955

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ESTIMATES OF POPULATION AND TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES OF THE U.S.S.R.

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NOTICE

1. The estimates appearing in this study result from an accelerated survey of available data. All figures accompanied by an asterisk (*) are the best possible estimates to be derived from accessible information and are to be regarded as an indication of an order of magnitude. Information which might correct or supplement these estimates should be forwarded to: AFICIN-3X3, Room 1324.
2. Population estimates as of 1 January 1955; administrative-territorial boundaries as of 1 August 1955.

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1 August 1955

MAGADANSKAYA OBLAST

Statistics

Area in sq. miles.....	459,479
Total Est. 1955 Pop.....	375,000
Urban Pop.....	105,000
Rural Pop.....	70,000
Forced Laborers.....	200,000*
National Okrug.....	1
(Chukotka)	
Cities.....	1
(Magadan)	
Urban Settlements.....	26
Rural Rayons.....	13
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I. Magadanskaya Oblast, GeneralA. Geography

Magadanskaya Oblast is located in the extreme NE section of the Far East Economic Region (refer to Map I) and is bounded on the N by the East Siberian Sea, on the E by the Bering Sea, on the S by Kamchatskaya Oblast and the Sea of Okhotsk, and on the W by Yakutskaya Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and Khabarovskiy Krai. The topography and climate limit political, military, and economic activities in the oblast, including particularly the potential for evacuation. The numerous rugged N-S mountain ranges in the area and one E-W range in the extreme northern section of the oblast are the outstanding topographic features. The Kolyma River Lowland extends northward from a divide bordering the Sea of Okhotsk and opens onto the East Siberian Sea. Climatic conditions throughout the oblast are uniformly harsh. In the extreme N a polar climate prevails; the rest of the area has a subarctic

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climate. The annual mean daily temperature is approximately 20° Fahrenheit along the southern coastal area with a maximum of 56° in August and a minimum of minus 11° in January. The annual mean total precipitation along the southern coast is approximately 9 inches. In the northern and central areas temperature and precipitation are lower.

B. Political, Military, and Economic Significance

Magadanakaya Oblast was formed in 1953 and is the newest major administrative-territorial division in the Far East Economic Region. It has long been an important gold-mining and penal area under the jurisdiction of Dalstroy (Chief Directorate for Construction of the Far North). The formation of the oblast probably reflects a reported change in the subordination of Dalstroy from the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) to the USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy. All nationally significant economic activity is controlled by Dalstroy. Magadanskaya Oblast is important from a military point of view because of its strategic location; Chukotak Peninsula at its extreme NE lies approximately 50 nautical miles from Alaska (refer to Map II). Since World War II, the Soviets have constructed and expanded military installations in the oblast, particularly air facilities near northern and eastern coastal settlements (refer to Map V).

Economic activity in the oblast is centered in the Magadan-Kolyma Lowland area, one of the most important gold-mining districts in the USSR. This area also contains ore concentration plants and refining mills and is the center of Dalstroy activity. New discoveries of other nonferrous ores, including uranium-bearing ores, have made the area increasingly important. The only other significant

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economic activity is manufacturing and repair of mining equipment. Agricultural production is limited and does not meet local needs. There are no local manpower reserves; additional manpower requirements must be filled from outside the Far East Region. There are no known rail or major highway transportation routes leading into the oblast; the area is accessible only by air and sea. Within the oblast the primary road connecting Magadan and the Kolyma River Valley is the most important means of transportation.

The political and overall economic importance of the oblast probably will not increase significantly in the near future owing to adverse climatic and topographic conditions. Because of the strategic location of the oblast, its military importance probably will increase in the near future as air facilities are developed and expanded.

C. Party, Military, and Government Control Groups

1. Communist Party and Komsomol

Of the major administrative-territorial divisions in the Far East Region Magadanskaya Oblast has the lowest percentages for Party and Komsomol membership among the free civilian population. Total membership for the Communist Party and Komsomol combined is 29,100, or 23 per cent of the total free civilian population age 14 and over. The 9200 Party members represent 8 per cent of the free civilian population age 18 and over; the 19,900 Komsomols represent 36 per cent of the free civilian population age 14-26. Approximately 77 per cent of the Party and Komsomol members in the oblast are in urban settlements (refer to Map III). Most of the remainder are concentrated in military units in the vicinity of northern and eastern coastal settlements and in MVD detachments near mining settlements in the Kolyma Lowland. The highest Party agency in the oblast is the Oblast Party Committee in Magadan which is directly subordinate to the USSR Central Committee of the

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Communist Party in Moskva. It directs the activities of subordinate committees in Magadan and in each of the 13 rural rayon centers in the oblast. These committees supervise most Party Primary Organizations, which are formed in all enterprises and organizations to check on operations and personnel. Party Primary Organizations formed in military units and militarized MVD formations are controlled by political directorates of USSR ministries in Moskva.

2. Military

There are an estimated 12,000* military personnel stationed in Magadanskaya Oblast, including more than 10,000* Soviet Air Force personnel. Military personnel comprise approximately 10 per cent of the free population of age 18 and over. Air Force units are concentrated on a cluster of airfields in and around Provideniya on the Chukotsk Peninsula and on a string of airfields extending from Magadan to Provideniya (refer to Map V). Elements of the 3rd IRAA stationed at Provideniya/Urelik Airfield (Target 0075-8018), one of 3 Class I airfields in the Far East Region, are subordinate to headquarters in Khabarovsk, Khabarovskiy Kray. Units of the 10th TAA comprise the majority of air force personnel in the oblast and are probably subordinate to headquarters in Dolinsk, Sakhalinskaya Oblast. Army and naval units are relatively unimportant. There is a large concentration of MVD militarized units in the Magadan-Kolyma Lowland area guarding forced labor camps. The Headquarters of a Border Detachment of the MVD, possibly the 61st, is stationed in Magadan and controls 600-1000 troops.

3. Bureaucracy

There are an estimated 3400 persons in the governmental, judicial, and economic bureaucracy in Magadanskaya Oblast, representing approximately 3 per cent of the total free adult population age

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18 and over. Virtually all members of the bureaucracy are employed by Dalstroy and supervise mining, manufacturing, and other activities under its jurisdiction.

D. Population and Labor Force

The estimated 1955 total population of Magadan's Oblast (see Table I) is 375,000 (including 12,000* military personnel), or 0.2 per cent of the total USSR population. Of the total population, 105,000 (28 per cent) are urban, 70,000 (19 per cent) are rural, and 200,000* (53 per cent) are forced laborers in camps. Magadan, the oblast's largest urban area, has an estimated population of 50,000. Chukotskiy Matsionalnyy Okrug has an estimated population of 43,000 (37 per cent urban, 63 per cent rural), or 11 per cent of the total population of Magadan's Oblast.

Prior to 1930, the population consisted principally of nomadic tribes. The exploitation of extensive gold deposits in the Kolyma area, beginning about 1932, required the importation of large numbers of forced laborers. Since 1939 the rate of growth of the total population has declined; however, the urban increase has continued at a fairly rapid rate. It is expected that the total population will remain fairly constant in the near future.

Magadan's Oblast, one of the most lightly populated areas in the USSR, has a population density of about 0.8 persons per square mile as compared to 25 for the USSR and 5 for the Soviet Far East. The greatest population concentration occurs in the 7 rayons of oblast subordination (refer to Table I and Map IV).

Great Russians form the major ethnic group in Magadan's Oblast, comprising an estimated 57 per cent of the free civilian population (see Table II). Ukrainians, accounting for 22 per cent of this population, form the largest minority group. Great Russians are the predominant urban group, and native Chukchis

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TABLE I

1955 ESTIMATED POPULATION DENSITY
BY
ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS

Administrative-Territorial Divisions	Estimated Total Population	Area (Sq. Miles)	Density (In Persons per Sq. Mile)
Magadanakaya Oblast	375,000	459,479	0.8
Oblast Subordinated Rayons*	332,000	177,056	1.9
Olakkiy R.	63,000	22,915	2.7
Omsukchanakiy R.	10,000	31,998	0.3
Severo-Evenskiy R.	11,000	30,473	0.4
Srednekanskiy R.	31,000	40,753	0.8
Susumanskiy R.	47,500	17,268	2.8
Tonkinskiy R.	35,500	17,645	2.0
Yagodninskiy R.	134,000	16,004	8.4
Chukotskiy Natsionalnyy Okrug*	43,000	282,423	0.2
Anadyrskiy R.	11,400	60,608	0.2
Chamanskiy R.	7,700	49,691	0.2
Chukotskiy R.	16,300	26,525	0.6
Iulinskiy R.	2,700	24,508	0.1
Markovski R.	2,200	45,483	0.1
Vostochnoy Tundry R.	2,700	75,608	0.1

constitute the largest group in the rural areas. Other free minorities include Belorussians, Tunguz, Koryaks, Yakuts, Jews, and a variety of numerically insignificant groups.

TABLE II

1955 ETHNIC COMPOSITION
OF
ESTIMATED FREE CIVILIAN POPULATION

Ethnic Group	Number	Per Cent
Great Russian	68,500	42
Ukrainian	35,200	22
Chukchi	18,300	11
Belorussian	9,300	6
Tungus	8,100	5
Koryak	7,400	5
Yakut	7,200	4
Jewish	5,500	3
Other	3,500	2
Total	163,000	100

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An estimated 63 per cent of the total free civilian population (see Table III), or 102,700 persons, are in the main working ages (16-59); 32 per cent are in the preworking ages (0-15); and 5 per cent are in the postworking ages (60 and over). Sixty-nine per cent of the urban population and 54 per cent of the rural population are in the main working ages. The sex ratio of the free civilian population is 95 females to every 100 males (see Table III). The sex ratio of the total population (including military and forced laborers is 36 females for every 100 males as compared to the USSR ratio of 116 females to every 100 males.

TABLE III
1955 AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION OF
ESTIMATED FREE CIVILIAN POPULATION

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Cent of Total</u>
0-15	26,200	26,400	52,600	32
16-59	53,700	49,000	102,700	63
60 and over	3,600	4,100	7,700	5
Total	83,500	79,500	163,000	100

An estimated 83,000 persons, or 51 per cent of the total free civilian population, are in the civilian labor force. The urban free civilian labor force accounts for 54 per cent of the urban free civilian population, and 45 per cent of the rural free civilian population is in the rural free civilian labor force. Manufacturing and gold mining employ the largest segment of the urban civilian labor force. In the rural areas, animal husbandry and fishing engage most of the rural civilian labor force. The forced laborers work principally in the mines.

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E. Social Characteristics

Magadanakaya Oblast has the lowest standard of living of the major administrative-territorial divisions in the Far East. Much of the food supply for the nonrural population is imported by ship from other areas of the USSR. The rural population is self-sufficient in foodstuffs but lives at subsistence level. The standard of living of the estimated 200,000 forced laborers in the oblast is at the bare subsistence level. Most of the 119,000 nonnative free population are reported to be ex-forced laborers now restricted to the area. About 60 per cent of the free population live in urban areas. The majority of urban settlements in the oblast are concentrated in the rayons of oblast subordination (refer to Map II). The urban labor force is engaged chiefly in the manufacture and repair of mining equipment and in mining. Native ethnic groups comprise the majority of the population in the Chukotsk Natsionalnyy Okrug and depend upon reindeer herding, hunting, and fishing for their sustenance. Great Russians, Ukrainians, and Belorussians comprise approximately 70 per cent of the total civilian population and 94 per cent of the urban population. Native ethnic groups comprise approximately 65 per cent of the rural population; Great Russians, Ukrainians, and Belorussians, about 30 per cent. The Great Russians, Ukrainians, and Belorussians are traditionally Christian (Eastern Orthodox). Traditionally, the native population are Shamanists, Buddhists, and Christian (Eastern Orthodox).

F. Political and Social Tensions

Considerable potential for resistance to the Soviet regime exists in Magadanskaya Oblast. The presence of approximately 200,000 forced laborers in the oblast, or more than 53 per cent of the total population, constitutes the greatest source of hostility towards the regime. The Soviets recognize this hostility and

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maintain a close armed surveillance over forced labor camps. The possibility of organized resistance by forced laborers is lessened by the rapid turnover among camp inmates caused by their extremely high death rate and replacement from outside the area. The segment of the free population restricted to the oblast also is hostile to the regime. The native ethnic groups, comprising 65 per cent of the civilian rural population, are probably resentful of their regimentation and economic exploitation by the Soviet authorities. In urban areas, tension between the large Ukrainian minority and Great Russians is accentuated by the fact that the latter comprise the administrative elite. The low standard of living and the harsh climate contribute to the low morale of nonnatives, few of whom came to the area voluntarily.

G. Potential for Evacuation

Plans for the evacuation of Magadanskaya Oblast, if extant, are not known. Available information indicates that except for the city of Magadan and other coastal settlements evacuation of the oblast is not feasible. Probably the only organizations capable of directing an evacuation are the local headquarters of the 10th TAA, the headquarters of the Border Detachment of the MVD, the Oblast Department of Militia, the Oblast Executive Committee, and the Oblast Society for Cooperation with the Army, Air Force, and Navy (DOSAAF). There is no feasible evacuation route overland. The most probable means of evacuation are by sea and air. The population of Magadan, Anadyr, and other northern and eastern coastal settlements with adequate air facilities could be evacuated by air or by sea from May to December or January to ports in the Far East which would probably not be evacuated. Evacuation W into Yakutskaya ASSR on the only improved road in the oblast is not probable because of the inability of the hinterland to support the evacuees. Evacuation S

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on this road from the interior to the Magadan port area is not plausible because the inhabitants of the city of Magadan would be evacuating N along the same route. Evacuation SE along the coast into Khabarovskiy Kray is highly improbable owing to rugged terrain. Control personnel in Magadan probably could be evacuated entirely by air.

II. Magadanskaya Oblast, Major Urban Areas

A. Magadan

Statistics

Area in Sq. Miles.....7
Total Est. 1955 Pop...50,000
Latitude.....59-34 N
Longitude.....150-48 E

1. Political, Military, and Economic Significance

Magadan, founded in 1932, is located on the S coast of the oblast on the Sea of Okhotsk (refer to Map II). It is the capital of Magadanskaya Oblast. Magadan is an important administrative and supply center for mining activities in the Magadan-Kolyma Lowland area. It is the site of an excellent naval anchorage and port, a ship repair yard, 3 petroleum storage areas, a large military supply depot, and an airfield. The headquarters for militarized MVD formations stationed throughout the oblast are located in the city. It is a secondary naval base.

2. Party, Military, and Government Control Groups

There are an estimated 3000 Communists and 6500 Komsomols in Magadan, or approximately 25 per cent of the population age 14 and over. The Oblast Committee of the Communist Party in Magadan is the highest civil Party agency in the oblast. The military airfield, seaplane station, 3 barracks areas, and port facilities house approximately 1000 air force and naval personnel. Magadan is the headquarters of a Border Detachment of the MVD,

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possibly the 61st, and of MVD security troops guarding forced labor camps throughout the oblast. There are approximately 1300 persons in the government, judicial, and economic bureaucracy in Magadan. The headquarters of Dalstroy, located in Magadan, controls all significant economic activity in the oblast. The Oblast Executive Committee, the highest oblast civil government agency, controls the police and fire defense personnel and is responsible for providing the free population in the oblast with food, most housing, consumer goods, health and educational facilities, and other services.

3. Population and Labor Force

The 1955 estimated population of Magadan is 50,000, an increase of 233 per cent over the 1939 reported population of 15,000. Since its founding in 1932, the city's population expansion has been closely related to the exploitation of the Kolyma gold resources.

Great Russians, Magadan's largest ethnic group, constitute an estimated 49 per cent of the population. The main working ages (16-59) include about 69 per cent of the city's population, and the sex ratio is estimated at 88 females for every 100 males. Fifty-four per cent of the population is in the civilian labor force, of which the largest occupational category is manufacturing. There are about 1000 military personnel stationed in the city.

1955 AGE AND SEX COMPOSITION

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
0-15	6,500	6,700	13,200	27
16-59	19,200	15,500	34,700	69
60 plus	900	1,200	2,100	4
Total	26,600	23,400	50,000	100

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1955 ETHNIC COMPOSITION

<u>Ethnic Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Great Russian	24,500	49
Ukrainian	17,500	35
Belorussian	4,500	9
Jewish	2,500	5
Other	1,000	2
Total	50,000	100

4. Social Characteristics

The standard of living in Magadan is below average for urban centers in the Far East Region. An adequate food supply is imported by ship from other areas in the USSR. The water supply, sewerage system, telephone-telegraph network, and electric power supply are adequate for the city. Housing, and health and education facilities, although poorly developed, are also probably adequate. The standard of living of the forced laborers confined in the 3 penal camps in the city is at the bare subsistence level. Great Russians, Ukrainians, and Belorussians comprise 93 per cent of the population. Native ethnic groups are of insignificant size, accounting for less than 2 per cent of the population. More than 90 per cent of the population is traditionally Christian (Eastern Orthodox).

5. Political and Social Tensions

There is some potential for resistance to the Soviet regime in Magadan. Forced laborers confined to camps in Magadan constitute the greatest source of hostility towards the Soviet authorities. Soviet armed surveillance of these camps and the near-starvation regimen of the forced laborers make organized resistance unlikely. There is some tension between Ukrainians, who comprise approximately one-third of the city population, and Great

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Russians who form the administrative elite. There are probably no intergroup religious antagonisms in Magadan. The morale of the predominantly nonnative population is low owing to the low standard of living and harsh climate.

6. Potential for Evacuation

Plans for the evacuation of Magadan, if extant, are not known. Available information indicates that evacuation of the city is feasible only between May and December or January when the port is ice free. The port area, served by road and located 2 miles W of the city on the N shore of Nagayev Bay, provides the most important avenue of mass evacuation. Control personnel probably could be evacuated by air from Magadan Airfield, located approximately 6 miles NNE of the city and accessible from the Kolyma Highway (an improved gravel road), and from Magadan/Nagayev Seaplane Station (Target 0131-8002) 2 miles SW of the city. The only overland routes from the city lead N via the Kolyma Highway and a single-track, narrow-gauge rail line which terminates probably in the vicinity of Palatka, approximately 50 miles N of Magadan. A single highway bridge and 2 railroad bridges across the Molotar River, which flows through the city, provide limited access to these routes. Although feasible evacuation routes, they probably would serve only a relatively insignificant number of the population because of the inability of the hinterland to support the evacuees. Evacuation along the coast E or W from the city is highly improbable owing to rugged terrain. Organizations capable of directing the evacuation of the city include the headquarters of the Border Detachment of the MVD, the local headquarters of MVD security troops, the City Department of Militia, the City Executive Committee, and the City Society for Cooperation with the Army, Air Force, and Navy (DOSAAF).

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B. Other Urban Areas

The other urban areas of Magadan's Oblast are small settlements having little political or military significance. None of the 26 settlements has population over 10,000. Anadyr, with a population of 6000, is the capital of the Chukotsk Natsionalnyy Okrug and of Anadyrskiy Rural Rayon. Yagodnoye (7000), Susuman (4000), Ust-Onuchug (2000), Seymachan (2000), Pevek (1500), and Omsukchan (1000) are rural rayon centers. Provideniya (4500) probably contains a regional headquarters of the Chief Directorate of the Northern Sea Route which controls shipping along the N and E shores of the oblast. Urban areas in the rayons of oblast subordination are generally mining settlements. In Chukotsk they are fishing and trading settlements, some of which house Soviet Air Force personnel.

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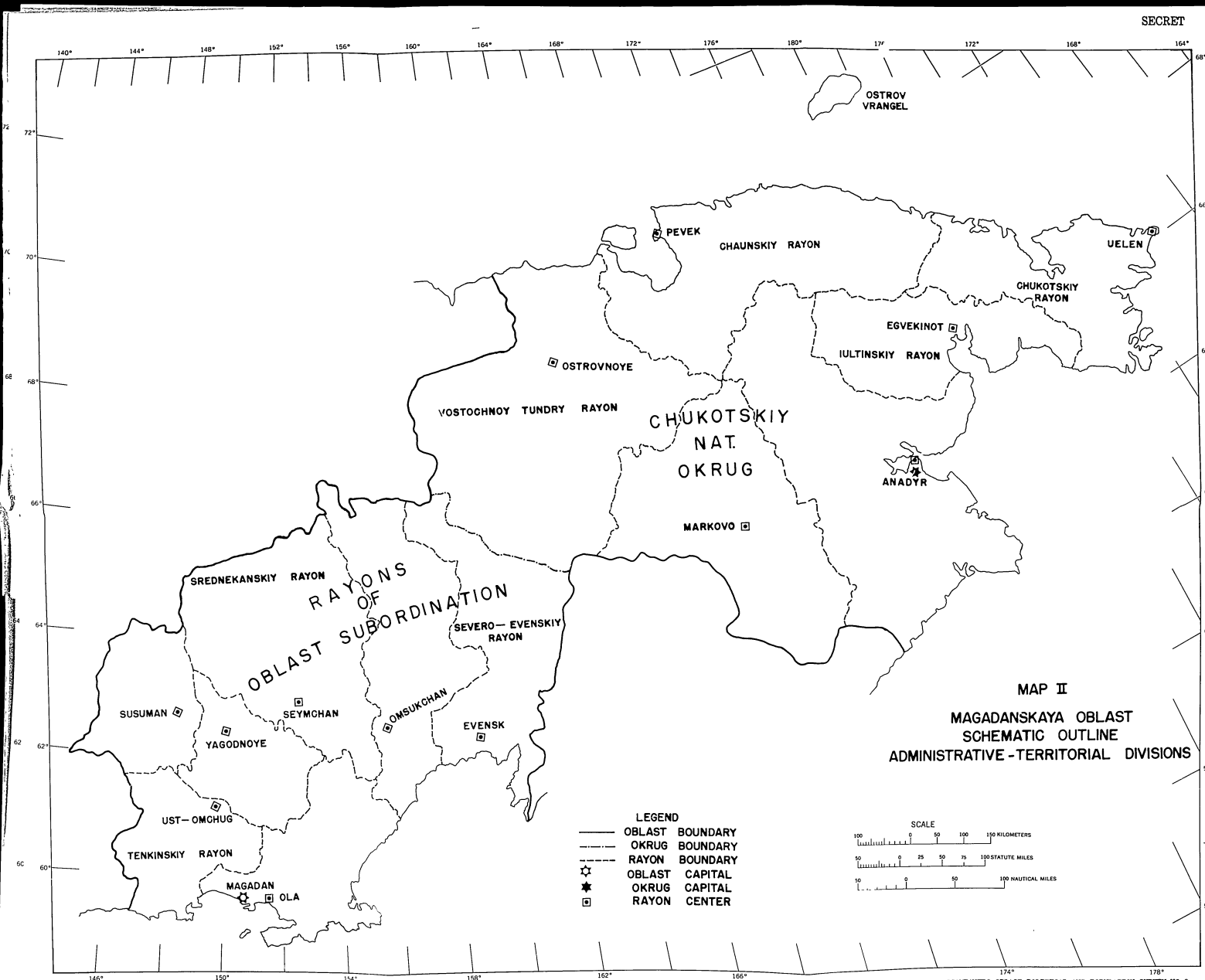
MAP II - ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS

MAP III - URBAN SETTLEMENTS

MAP IV - POPULATION DENSITY

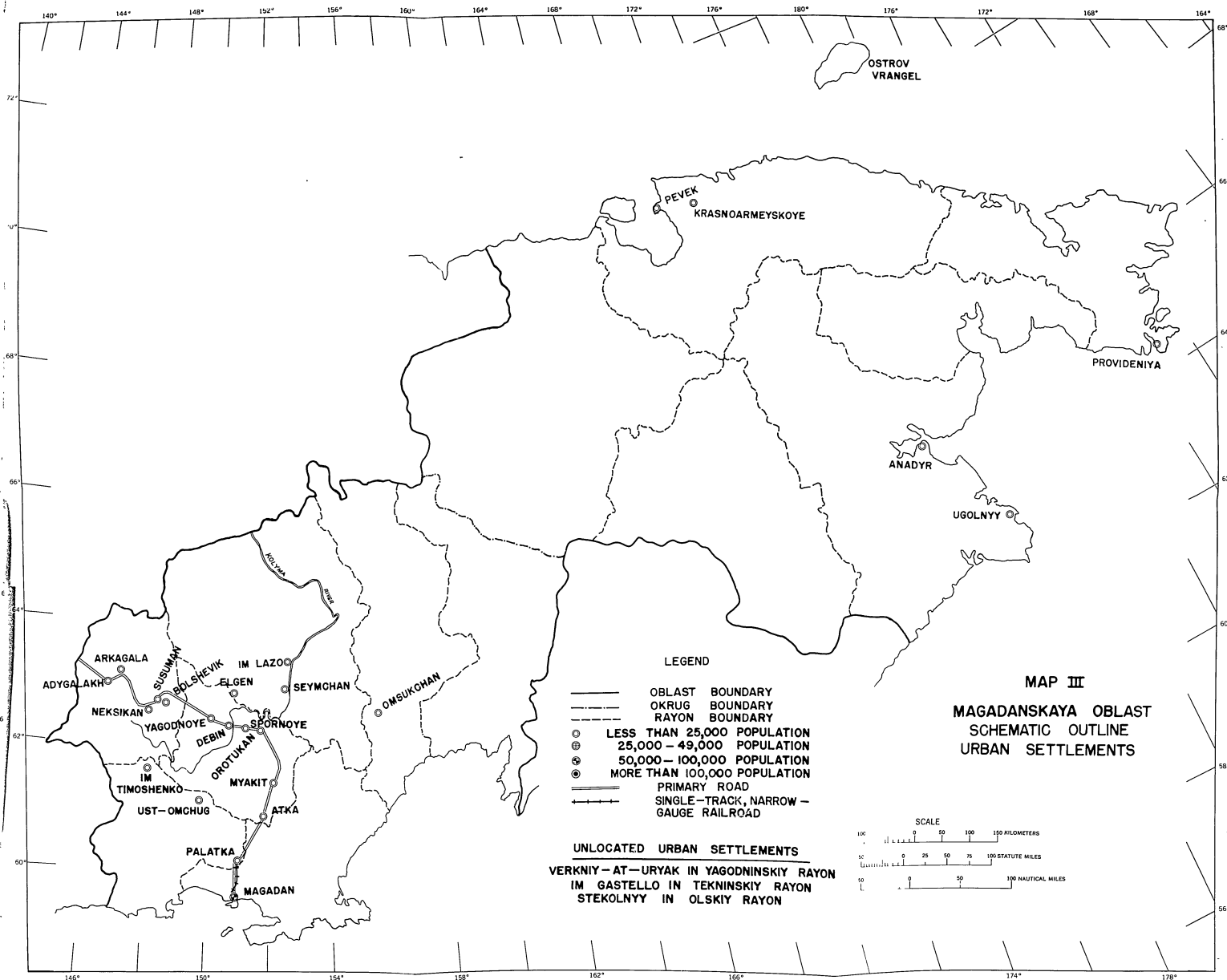
MAP V - MILITARY CONTROL

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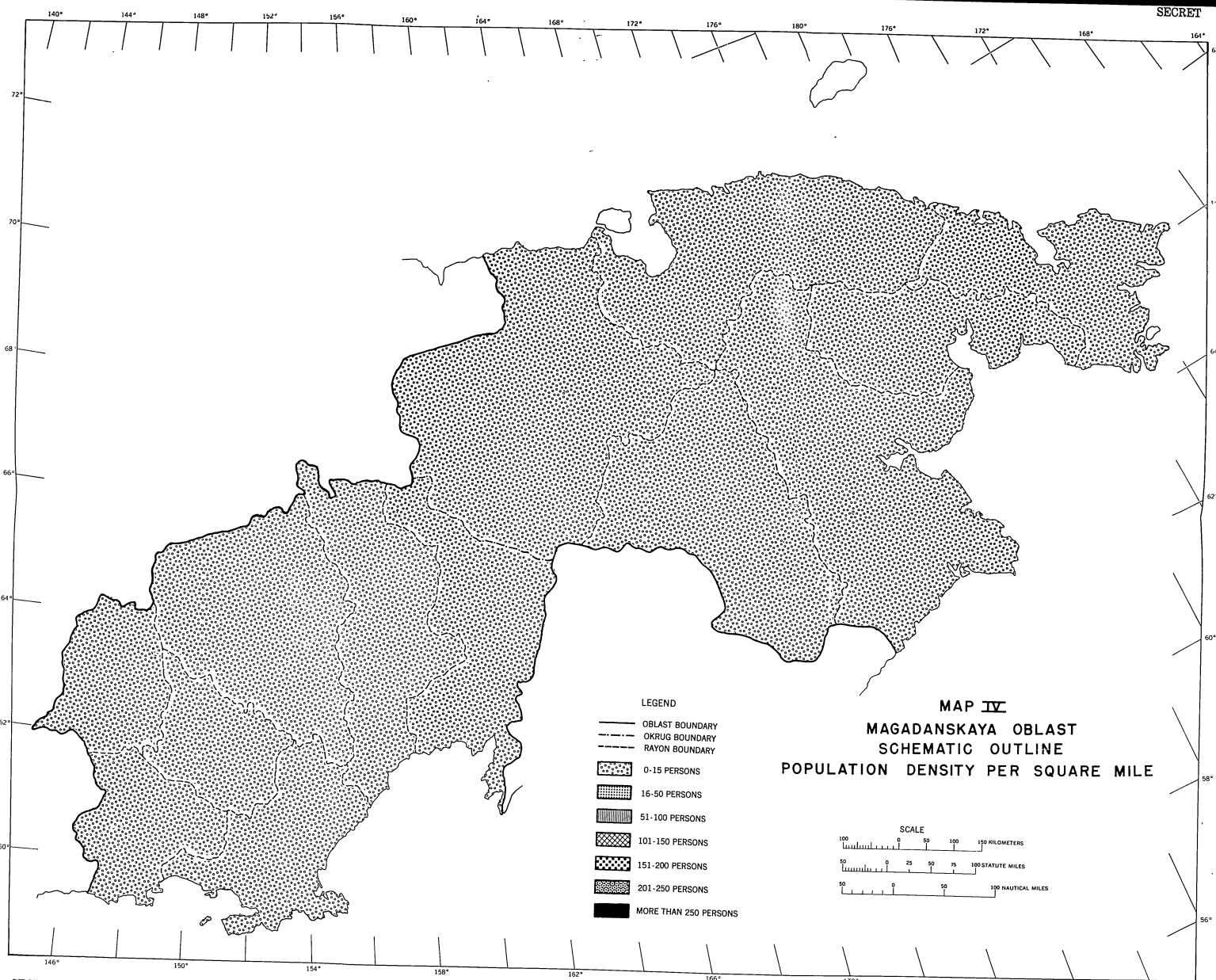
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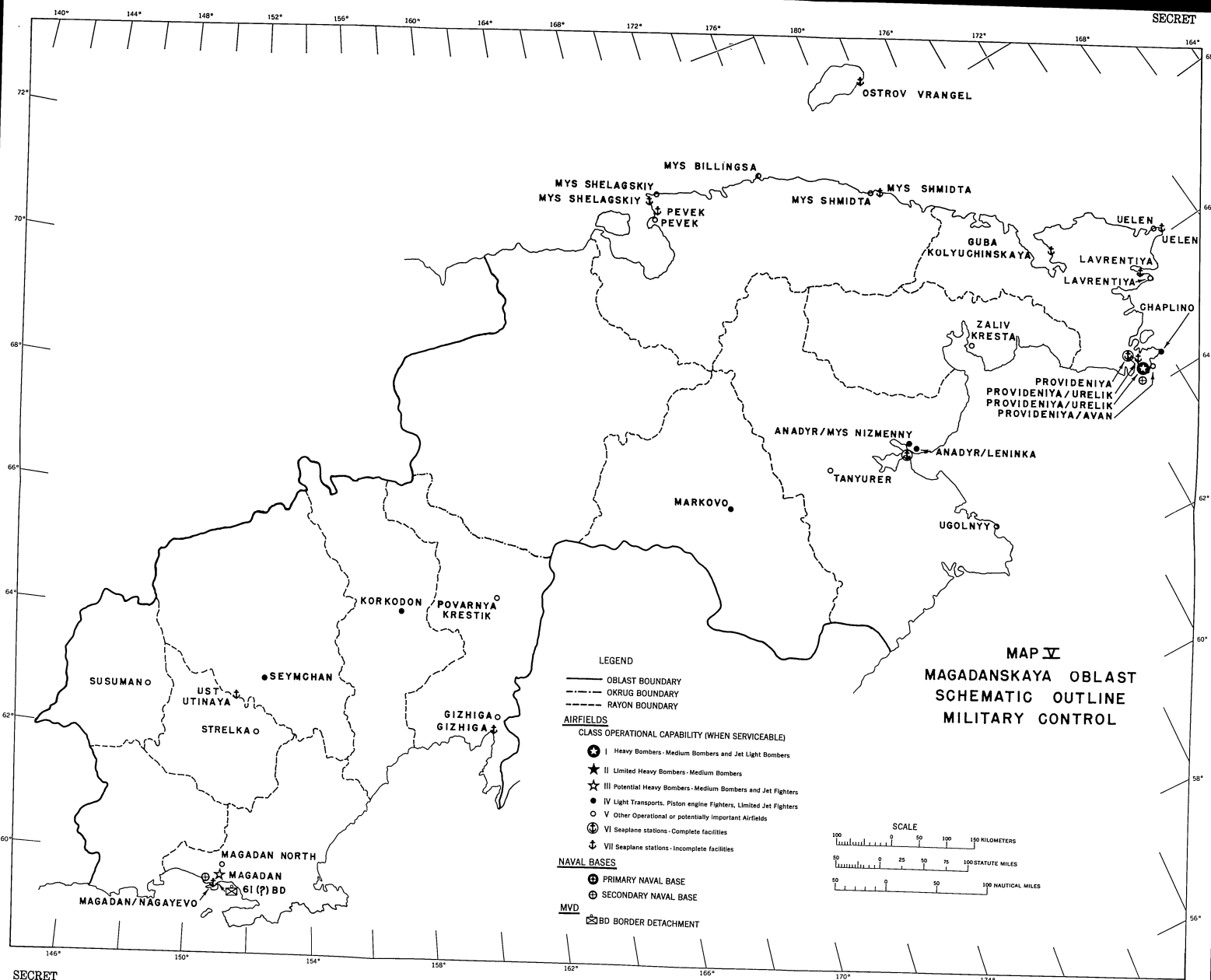
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